

Typha spp. Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Cattail species Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Northern Great Plains Cattail Marsh
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Semipermanently flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.1)
ALLIANCE	TYPHA (ANGUSTIFOLIA, LATIFOLIA) - (SCIRPUS SPP.) SEMIPERMANENTLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	2
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	

RANGE

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Cattail wetlands occur throughout the Refuge, occupying depressions, drainages, seeps, springs, and ponds where saturated soils or shallow standing water is present on a more-or-less permanent basis. This type is especially prevalent around the Refuge pools.

Globally

This community ranges broadly over the northern Great Plains of the United States.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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Cattail wetlands occupy flats, slow-flowing drainages, sidehill and toeslope seeps and springs, and the edges of ponds, pools, and reservoirs.

Globally

Stands occur in basin-like depressions, backwater areas of floodplains and shallow margins of lakes or ponds. Hydrology varies from seasonally flooded to semipermanently flooded.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , <i>Juncus</i> spp., <i>Scirpus americanus</i> , <i>Scirpus validus</i> , <i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>Typha latifolia</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Scirpus acutus</i> , <i>Scirpus tabernaemontani</i> , <i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>Typha latifolia</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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Typha angustifolia, *Scirpus americanus*

Globally

Scirpus acutus, *Scirpus tabernaemontani*, *Typha angustifolia*

OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES

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Globally

Stratum

Species

Graminoid *Eleocharis palustris*, *Leersia oryzoides*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Naturally occurring, emergent wetlands growing along slow-moving creeks are dominated by prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), spikerush, three-square bulrush (*Scirpus americanus* or *Scirpus pungens*), and softstem bulrush (*Scirpus validus*). Vegetative cover for emergent wetlands established along streams is dense, between 75-100% in most cases. Emergent wetlands that have formed around and in constructed pools and reservoirs are dominated by species of cat-tail (*Typha angustifolia* and *Typha latifolia*) and bulrush (*Scirpus validus* and *Scirpus americanus*). These sites may also support some wetland shrubs such as sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*). Typically, vegetative cover in emergent wetlands of disturbed sites ranges from approximately 50-90%.

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by relatively pure stands of *Typha* spp., either *Typha latifolia* or *Typha angustifolia* or both. Many associates could occur. This type may simply be a less diverse variation of *Typha* spp. - *Scirpus* spp. Mixed Herbs Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation (CEGL002228).

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5. Type is widespread throughout the plains, but most examples show evidence of disturbance. It is possible that the type originates primarily from human-related disturbances, and perhaps the rank should be GW.

DATABASE CODE CEGL002389

SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS

Scirpus acutus - *Typha latifolia* - (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*) Sandhills Herbaceous Vegetation

Typha latifolia Southern Herbaceous Vegetation (southeastern states)

Typha latifolia Western Herbaceous Vegetation (western states)

Typha spp. - *Scirpus* spp. - Mixed Herbs Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation (A more species diverse association.)

COMMENTS

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An effort was made to split this type into two map units based on hydrologic patterns, semipermanently and seasonally flooded.

Globally

Cattail - bulrush wetlands represent a regulated resource and are a valuable wildlife habitat. The presence of wetlands and ponded water controls the movement of livestock and many wildlife species, particularly bison, the largest grazing mammal on the park.

REFERENCES

Steinauer, G. and S. Rolfsmeier. 1997. Terrestrial natural communities of Nebraska. Draft – October 28, 1997. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE. 117 p.

Note:

This association is found in two different map classes:

- 1) [Cattail spp. Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation \(Semipermanently Flooded\)](#)
- 2) [Cattail spp. Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation \(Seasonally Flooded\)](#)